GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1373
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
DECLINING POPULATION OF EXOTIC BIRDS
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decline in the population of exotic species of birds in the country has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of wild Indian birds facing extinction and the reasons therefore; and

(d) the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) No, Sir.There are no such reports.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are no specific reports indicating that wild Indian bird species are facing extinction. However, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in their Red Data list (2007) has reported that a total of 75 species of birds are threatened in India. Loss of habitats, anthropogenic pressures, incorporation of poisonous substances in the food chain due to intensive agriculture, horticulture, dairying etc. are the reasons attributed for this.

(d) Various steps taken by the Central Government to strengthen wildlife conservation including birds are as below:

i. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.

ii. The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.

iii. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including birds.

iv. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

v. The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

vi. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife including birds.